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1. (Amended) A synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to a portion of the 5' untranslated region of hepatitis C virus and having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 36, 37, 47, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, and 133, as set forth in Table 1A, Table 1B, and Table 1F.

7. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 2, wherein one portion of the oligonucleotide has the sequence GGGGUCCUGGAG (SEQ ID NO:47) or has the sequence CAACACUACUCG (SEQ ID NO:80).

18. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 15, wherein the ribonucleotide is a 2'-O-methyl ribonucleotide.

22. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 2 comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 67, as set forth in Table 2.

26. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 24 having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:131, 132, and 133, as set forth in Table 1B.

27. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 8, wherein the modification is selected from the group consisting of a nicked dumbbell, a closed dumbbell, 2', 3' and/or 5' caps, additions to the molecule at the internucleotide phosphate linkage, oxidation, oxidation/reduction, and oxidative/reductive amination, and combinations thereof.

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29. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 28, wherein the oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:117 (HCV-242, HCV-243, HCV-244) and 118 (HCV-245), as set forth in Table 1A.

31. (Amended) An oligonucleotide according to claim 30 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171 and 172, as set forth in Table 1E.

Please add new claims 42 and 43:

42. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least two different oligonucleotides according to claim 1 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

43. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least two different oligonucleotides according to claim 2 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier.

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are currently pending. Claim 34 has been cancelled. New claims 42 and 43 have been added, and essentially replace cancelled claim 34. Claims 1, 7, 18, 22, 26, 27, 29 and 31 have been amended. Claims 7, 18, 22, 26, 27, 29 and 31 have been amended to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors, and as such, were not made for reasons related to patentability. A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is submitted herewith as Appendix A for the Examiner's convenience. A marked-up version of the amended claims is submitted herewith as Appendix B.